Abstract

An artificial airway device for use in unconscious patients comprises a laryngo-pharyngeal mask including a roughly elliptical shape, expandable masking ring. The expandable mask sealingly surrounding the laryngeal inlet when expanded to obstruct communication between the laryngeal inlet and oesophagus. One or more airway tubes connected to the mask provide for fluid flow to a portion of the mask facing the laryngeal inlet when said mask sealingly surrounds the laryngeal inlet. A gastro-tube connected to the mask is bonded along most of its length to the airway tube(s) and provides a fluid flow-path to the surface of said mask facing the oesophagus when said mask sealingly surrounds the laryngeal inlet. The cross-section area of said gastro-tube is at least as great as that of the airway tube. The distal end of the gastro tube passes through the masking ring at its narrower distal region where, when installed in a patient, it abuts against the oesophagus; and the distal portion of the gastro tube flattens when the mask is deflated to facilitate smooth passage behind the larynx during insertion through the mouth and throat of the patient.